

info@naturetravelnamibia.com
www.naturetravelnamibia.com

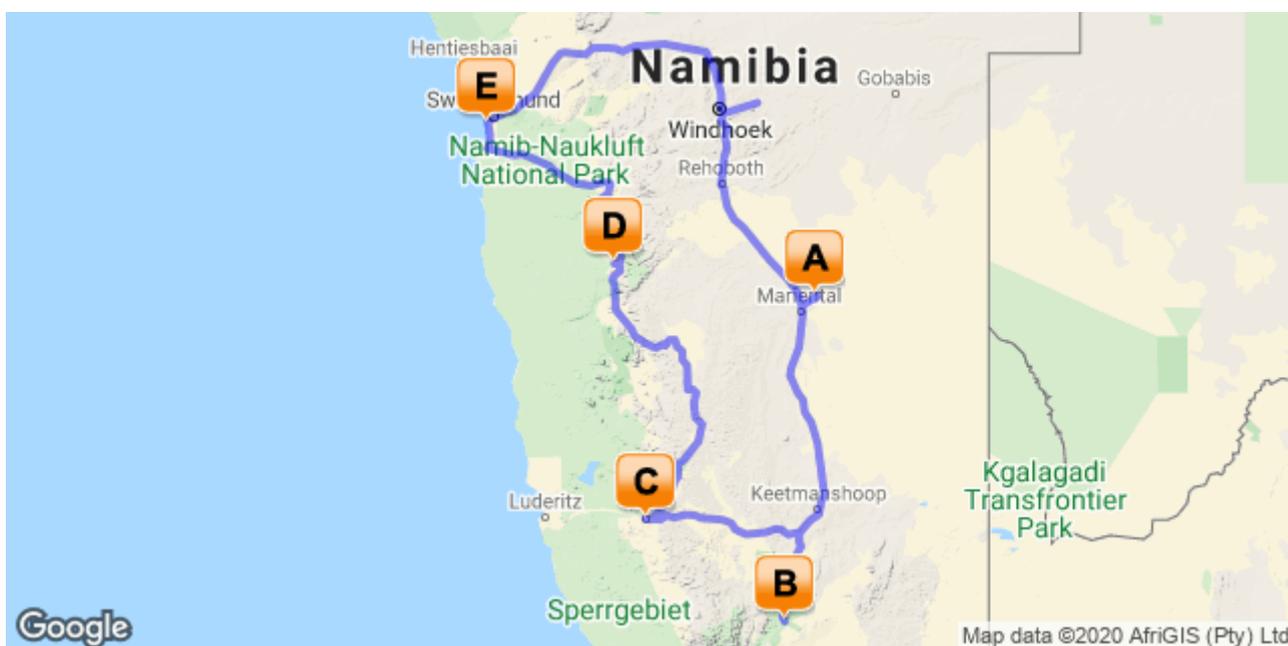


1 2 GO TOURS

8 DAY SOUTHERN NAMIBIA PRIVATELY GUIDED SAFARI

Kalahari - Fish River Canyon - Aus - Sossusvlei - Swakopmund
8 Days / 7 Nights

From ZAR 39,000 per person sharing



OVERVIEW

Our 8 Day Southern Namibia Safari explores the spectacular natural beauty and top attractions of this special region. Starting from the capital city of Windhoek, we spend a night in the red dunes of the Kalahari near Mariental. Then to the Canyon Park and mind-blowing Fish River Canyon before the tour continues to Aus, Lüderitz, the ghost town of Kolmanskop, and the famous wild Namib Desert Horses.

We also visit one of the top attractions in Southern Africa, the world’s highest sand dunes of Sossusvlei and then visit the quaint coastal oasis of Swakopmund.

This safari can easily be combined with visits to dramatic Damaraland or with an extension to the world famous Etosha National Park.

Start	Accommodation	Destination	Duration
Day 1	Kalahari Anib Lodge, Gondwana Collection Namibia	Mariental	1 Night
Day 2	Canyon Village, Gondwana Collection Namibia	Fish River Canyon	2 Nights

Day 4	Desert Horse Inn, Gondwana Collection Namibia	Aus	2 Nights
Day 6	Namib Desert Lodge, Gondwana Collection Namibia	Sossusvlei	1 Night
Day 7	Swakopmund Sands Hotel	Swakopmund	1 Night

COST OF SAFARI

Low Season - (1 December 2020 – 30 June 2021)

- **2 pax - ZAR 54,890 per person sharing**
- **4 pax - ZAR 43,350 per person sharing**
- **6 pax - ZAR 39,000 per person sharing**

Single Supplement of ZAR 3,150

High Season - (1 – 30 November 2020 AND 1 July 2021 – 1 November 2021)

- **2 pax - ZAR 55,450 per person sharing**
- **4 pax - ZAR 43,795 per person sharing**
- **6 pax - ZAR 39,500 per person sharing**

Single Supplement of ZAR 3,400

INCLUDED

- Accommodation
- All meals except dinner in Swakopmund
- Bottled water in the vehicle
- Activities as specified in the itinerary
- Private air-conditioned vehicle
- Private Nature Travel Guide
- Fuel
- Park Entry Fees

EXCLUDED

- Flights and Visa Fees
- Pre-and post-trip accommodation if required
- Drinks
- Gratuities
- Items of a personal nature
- Dinner in Swakopmund

Day 1: Kalahari Anib Lodge, Gondwana Collection Namibia, Mariental

ITINERARY

Welcome to Namibia ! On arrival at Hosea Kutako International Airport outside the capital city of Windhoek, your guide will be waiting for you in the airport arrivals hall, displaying a welcome board with your names on it. After loading your luggage into the vehicle, we start our adventure driving south towards the beautiful Kalahari savanna of Southern Namibia.

After a 3 hour journey we arrive at Kalahari Anib Lodge which is located on the eastern edge of the Namib Desert about 30 kms (18 miles) from the small town of Mariental. Nearby is Hardap Dam, the largest in Namibia, which supplies a large area with precious water and controls the flow of the Fish River.

Kalahari Anib Lodge is nestled amongst the famous red sands of the Kalahari. We hope to arrive in time for an afternoon game drive on the lodge's private reserve where you may see Oryx, Wildebeest, Ostrich, Porcupine, Sociable Weavers with their massive nests, Steenbok, Springbok, Kori Bustard, Hartebeest and other interesting fauna and flora. At sunset we will stop and enjoy the special view offered by the open expanses of the Kalahari.

The lodge has a wonderful pool to cool off in and the chef will ensure your first taste of Namibian cuisine is one to remember.



Overnight: Kalahari Anib Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia [View iBrochure](#)

Kalahari Anib Lodge is located 30 kms northeast of Mariental on the C 20 (Kalahari).

Savour the Kalahari Desert at this wonderful lodge which has 30 standard rooms that flank a shady courtyard and another 21 comfort rooms overlooking Kalahari savanna. Stretch your legs on a walk and join the afternoon drive to experience the red Kalahari sands aglow with an inner fire.



Sunset Game Drive

These game drives are the perfect way to get acquainted with the Kalahari Desert. The 3 hour morning or sunset drive offers panoramic views across the Kalahari dunes.



Included

- Airport/Hotel Pick up by your guide
- Sundowner Drive with Kalahari Anib Lodge
- Dinner

Day 2: Canyon Village, Gondwana Collection Namibia, Fish River Canyon

ITINERARY

After a relaxing breakfast at our Kalahari lodge, we continue south for a visit to some interesting natural phenomena near the town of Keetmanshoop.

The Quiver Tree forest outside Keetmanshoop comprises about 250 specimens of this weird-looking aloe and was declared a National Monument in 1995. The Quiver Tree has several uses, both for humans and for fauna species. The young flower buds can be eaten and have a similar appearance and taste to asparagus. Sugarbirds are drawn to the flowers in winter where they feed on the nectar. Sociable Weavers use the branches for their huge communal nests where their chicks and eggs are safe from predators. Large trunks of dead trees are also hollowed out and used as a natural fridge by desert-dwelling tribes. Water, meat and vegetables are stored inside it. *The Quiver Tree* is an extremely tough tree that can live for more than 100 years and reach a height of approximately 7 metres if left undisturbed.

Near the forest there is a geological site of great interest, Giant's Playground, which is a vast pile of large dolerite rocks and a wonderful subject for postcard-quality photographs.

Later we reach our beautifully located lodge, Canyon Village, check in and have lunch. This will be our home for the next two nights. We are in the 125,000 hectare (483 sq mi) Gondwana Canyon Park, established in the 1990s to protect the unique flora and fauna of this beautiful area. It is only a short distance from the Fish River Canyon.

In the afternoon we depart on a game drive in the lodge's private reserve, hoping to see more game like Gemsbok, Springbok, Greater Kudu, Klipspringer and two species of Zebra while learning about the geology of this rugged area. If we are extremely lucky we may even spot the elusive Leopard among the rocks...

We will return to the lodge for dinner and a good night's rest.



FISH RIVER CANYON

Carving out an epic rocky wonderland in the south of Namibia, the Fish River has created one of the world's largest canyons. Hot, dry and stony, the Fish River Canyon measures a whopping 160 kilometres in length, at times 27 kilometres in width and 550 metres in depth. The awe-inspiring natural beauty of this ancient geological marvel draws visitors from around the globe. For those looking for adventure, the intense 85 kilometre Fish River Hiking Trail through 1.5 billion years of geological history will definitely thrill avid adventure enthusiasts. For visitors looking to relax, head to the canyon's southern end to enjoy a soak in the mineral waters of the renowned hot springs of Ai-

Ais or take in the spectacularly scenic views from Hobas Rest Camp as well as numerous other viewpoints along its rim. Other popular activities include scenic chartered flights, horse riding, nature drives and seasonal kayaking.

Overnight: Canyon Village Gondwana Collection Namibia [View iBrochure](#)

Canyon Village is located 20 kms east of the Fish River Canyon on the C 37.

Suitable for a striking film set, Canyon Village lies at the foot of a sweeping rock face. Exhibiting authentic canyon character, the sprawling lodge explores the story of the south in murals, traditional Nama dress and even a donkey cart to convey baggage to rooms.



Sundowner Drive in Gondwana Canyon Park

This 3 hour drive is the perfect opportunity for you to acquaint yourself with the geology and flora and fauna of the Gondwana Canyon Park. The tour does not include the Fish River Canyon. It starts at Canyon Lodge or Canyon Village. Approx. 3 hours



Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Entrance Fees to Quiver Tree Forest
- Sundowner drive in Gondwana Canyon Park

Day 3: Canyon Village, Gondwana Collection Namibia, Fish River Canyon

ITINERARY

After enjoying a good night's rest and a big Namibian breakfast, we explore the fascinating Fish River Canyon this morning. The Fish River Canyon reaches a depth of 549 m and a width of up to 27 kms and is about 160 kms long.

After returning to our lodge for lunch and a short break, we do an afternoon game drive in the park. Alternatively we can do a morning walk in the park, visit the canyon in the afternoon and have time for a quick walk to watch the sun set with a sundowner in hand. Overnight in Canyon Village.

Canyon Drive

On this scenic drive you are taken to the two major lookout points along the Fish River Canyon. Our guide will tell you all about the canyon's fascinating geology. (Approx. 3 hours)



Sundowner Walk

All guests are invited to wrap up the day with a short excursion to our very own 'local' mountain. Have a drink and watch the sun go down.



Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- 3 hour Canyon Drive to 2 of the major lookout points in the Canyon
- Sundowner drive in Gondwana Canyon Park or alternatively Sundowner Walk

Day 4: Desert Horse Inn, Gondwana Collection Namibia, Aus

ITINERARY

Rise early this morning and do a short drive to a higher area from where we can enjoy a spectacular sunrise with a cup of coffee and some traditional rusks; an unforgettable experience indeed.

We return to the lodge for breakfast and shortly thereafter make our way in a northwesterly direction towards Aus and Luderitz amidst ever-changing landscapes. Not far away is the Orange River which forms the border between the countries of Namibia and South Africa. Also found in this region is the Sperrgebiet, a huge restricted diamond mining area that covers 26,000 sq kms (10,000 sq mi), 3% of Namibia's total land surface, and is jointly owned by the Namibian government and global diamond company De Beers. Interestingly, mining only takes place in five percent

of the Sperrgebiet, with most of the area acting as a buffer zone. Members of the public are barred from entering most parts of the Sperrgebiet despite the creation of a national park here in 2004. It is an area of incredible biodiversity with almost 800 plant species, animals such as Brown Hyena and birds such as African Oystercatcher and the endemic Dune Lark.

Our lodge for the next two nights is Desert Horse Inn, situated in an accessible area of the Sperrgebiet Park in the Aus mountains and offering incredible views over the surrounding plains. Streaks of Namib sand merge with the bleached grasses of the Pro-Namib in a sensuous slow dance of splendour. The nearby settlement of Aus (meaning “big snake” in the local Khoekhoe language) has an interesting history and also features the coldest winters ever recorded in Namibia.

We enjoy an afternoon drive in the Sperrgebiet Park and then return to the lodge for dinner and another night under African skies.



Perched above the plains of the Namib Desert and tucked away in the rocky Aus Mountains, the small village of Aus is located in the ||Karas Region in Southern Namibia. The arid landscape is known for its unique botanical diversity. Aus serves as an excellent base from which to explore the area and to view one of the main attractions, the feral horses of the Namib Desert that run wild and free in the sparsely vegetated plains. Catch a glimpse of these wild desert-adapted horses at the water trough at Garub just twenty kilometres from the village. Visitors can explore the Succulent Karoo with a visit to the beautiful Gondwana Sperrgebiet Rand Park, the most biodiverse desert in the world, and take a scenic hike to discover fascinating indigenous fauna and flora. Don't miss the opportunity to camp under the clear Namibian night sky and view the vast desert landscape on horseback.

Overnight: Desert Horse Inn, Gondwana Collection Namibia [View iBrochure](#)

Desert Horse Inn is located 2 kms west of Aus on the B 4 (Aus / Wild Horses).

Where the subtle colours of the grassy Pro-Namib merge with Namib sands you'll find Klein Aus Vista's Desert Horse Inn. Surrounded by the rocky Aus hills, Desert Horse Inn is an attractive base for a sojourn in south-western Namibia en route to the famed dunes of Sossusvlei.



Included

- Breakfast
 - Lunch
 - Dinner
 - Scenic Sunset Drive with the lodge
-

Day 5: Desert Horse Inn, Gondwana Collection Namibia, Aus

ITINERARY

We have the whole day to explore the surrounding attractions including Lüderitz, Kolmanskop and the Wild Horses of the Namib.

The harbour town of Lüderitz is one of only a few small towns in Southern Namibia and is known for its colonial architecture, wildlife (including South African Fur Seals and African Penguins) and an interesting museum. It is named after controversial colonial figure Adolf Lüderitz but was discovered by Bartolomeu Dias in 1487 who erected a stone cross on the southern peninsula. For centuries the town operated as a trading post with whaling, seal hunting, fishing and guano harvesting dominating the industry. In the early 1900s it even experienced a short diamond rush when nearby Kolmanskop was built. These days many tourists are attracted to the historic architecture, a new waterfront, some good restaurants and its proximity to Kolmanskop. We do a sightseeing walk and drive around the town to enjoy its attractions.

Just outside Lüderitz lies the ghost town of Kolmanskop which we will explore and take some interesting photographs. This previously bustling diamond town was abandoned in 1956 when richer diamond-bearing areas were found further south and still continues to wage war against being buried under the shifting sands of the desert. The town has been used as the setting for several films and television series.

Our final attraction for today is the rare and famous Wild Horses of the Namib. Their origin is unclear but they are most likely ancestors of the horses from German breeding programmes that were released from various farms and camps in the early 20th century, especially during World War I. The Namib Desert Horse travels extensively, searching for food, water and shelter from the climate and insects. Due to scarcity of water, the Namib Desert Horse sometimes goes without water for as long as thirty hours in summer and has been known to go close to 72 hours without water during the winter, significantly longer than most horses, even other feral herds. There are between 100 and 180 horses that roam the sparsely vegetated plains of this arid environment in small groups, often coming to drink from the man-made trough at Garub, some 20 kms west of Aus. From a hide we can watch the horses and take pictures; a rare treat.

We make our way back to the lodge, enjoying the late afternoon light. Then have dinner and a good night's rest. Tomorrow we head north!

Kolmanskop

Amongst the sands of the Namib, the crumbling buildings of a small, once-luxurious town emerge from the drifting dunes. This ghost town is Kolmanskop, a reminder of the wealth of a time when diamonds could be picked by hand from the desert and which offers you a remarkable photographic opportunity.



Luderitz

Sandwiched between the rugged and stark Atlantic Coast and the arid Namib Desert, the town of Luderitz is set in an incredibly unique geographical location. This seaside town is something of an anomaly frozen in time – a piece of 19th-century Bavaria bordering the pinkish sand dunes of the Namib Desert. Lutheran churches, German bakeries, and colonial buildings boasting German art nouveau architecture are dotted about the settlement, while its windswept beaches are home to flamingos, ostriches, seals and penguins. The nearby ghost town of Kolmanskop, which has been taken over by the desert dunes, is one of the most fascinating attractions in this area and is located approximately 10 kilometres from Luderitz. Visitors can also take a trip to discover the wild desert-adapted horses located near the small town of Aus.



Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Full day excursion in our vehicle to Luderitz and Kolmanskop

Day 6: Namib Desert Lodge, Gondwana Collection Namibia, Sossusvlei

ITINERARY

Rise early and depart after breakfast on a half day tour of the surrounding desert landscape. A local expert will talk about the fascinating fauna and flora that survives, and even thrives, in this harsh and seemingly dead landscape. We may see interesting plants, geckos, lizards, snakes, small mammals, and learn about the geology and history of the area. Alternatively we can organise a morning of hiking in the beautiful Aus mountains.

After lunch we depart for Sossusvlei, driving through the Namib Rand Nature Reserve with its spectacular scenery. This private nature reserve covers 2,150 sq kms (830 sq mi) and shares borders with the Namib-Naukluft National Park to the west and the Nubib mountains to the east. The reserve has been proclaimed as Africa's first International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) making it one of the best places on earth to star-gaze.

Your journey to Sossusvlei today is about 5 hours, a drive that takes you through some spectacular desert areas. We will arrive at Namib Desert Lodge in the late afternoon and enjoy a great dinner and an early night in preparation for tomorrow's early start.



Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes of the Namib. The clear blue skies contrast with the giant red sand dunes to make this one of the natural wonders of Africa and a photographer's dream. Aside from the attractions at Sossusvlei - Dune 45, Hiddenvlei, Big Daddy and Deadvlei - other attractions in the area include the Sesriem Canyon and Namib-Naukluft National Park where the mountains of the Namib meet the plains.

Overnight: Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia [View iBrochure](#)

Namib Desert Lodge is located 60 kms north of Sesriem on the C 19 (Sossusvlei Area).

Namib Desert Lodge is set below striking fossilised dunes, a wonderful example of ancient desert landscapes. The lodge has 65 rooms, two swimming pools and a waterhole. Breathe in the grandeur on a sunset drive and feel the earth underfoot. Relax in the arms of the Namib.



Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Day 7: Swakopmund Sands Hotel, Swakopmund

ITINERARY

We will be up before the sun rises to prepare for our Sossusvlei visit. Enjoy a quick cup of coffee/tea and wait for the park gates to open at sunrise. Then we drive for about 30 minutes while the sun rises over the amazing red dunes. The dunes in this area are some of the highest in the world, reaching almost 400 meters with the opportunity to capture wonderful images in the beautiful morning and evening light.

For the adventurous you have the option of climbing the dunes, sliding down them or enjoying a brisk walk to Dead Vlei. You will have plenty of time to enjoy the many highlights that surrounds Sossusvlei itself.

- Dune 45, the most photographed dune on earth (situated 45 kms from Sesriem on the road to Sossusvlei)
- Hiddenvlei, perfect if you are looking for solitude in the desert
- The magnificently tall Big Daddy dune
- Deadvlei, a paradise for photographers as it is punctuated by blackened, dead acacia trees in vivid contrast to the shiny white salt floor of the pan and the intense orange dunes

We will take a break halfway and enjoy a picnic breakfast while enjoying the surrounding landscape.

Sossusvlei

Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes of the Namib. The clear blue skies contrast with the giant red sand dunes to make this one of the natural wonders of Africa and a photographer's dream. Aside from the attractions at Sossusvlei - Dune 45, Hiddenvlei, Big Daddy and Deadvlei - other attractions include the Sesriem Canyon and Namib-Naukluft National Park where the mountains of the Namib meet the plains.



Dead Vlei

This ancient clay pan was once an oasis studded with acacia trees and fed by a river that suddenly changed course, resulting in the earth drying up and the trees dying. So dry were the climatic conditions that the trees never decomposed – instead they were entirely leached of moisture so that today, 900 years later, they remain as desiccated, blackened sentinels dotting the pan's cracked surface. Surrounded by the red-pink dunes of the Namibia Desert, they create a surreal spectacle that is a photographer's dream.



After lunch we depart for Swakopmund via the Namib Naukluft National Park. We spend the night at Swakopmund Sand Hotel and will have dinner at one of the top restaurants in town. Please note that dinner tonight is not included and is for your own account. We will enjoy our last dinner together and reminisce about our wonderful safari!

Swakopmund is a very popular holiday destination. Wedged between the Namib Desert and the cold Atlantic Ocean, Swakopmund is known for its relaxed atmosphere and has something for everybody. There are plenty of great restaurants and bars, good shopping opportunities and fascinating architecture. For the adventurous there's quad

biking, sand-boarding, skydiving, beach angling and scenic flights over the coastline and Sossusvlei to name a few. Nearby is Walvis Bay, Namibia's major harbour town, well known for the lagoon and its prolific birdlife.



Founded in 1892 as the main harbour for German South West Africa, Swakopmund is often described as being more German than Germany. Now a seaside resort, Swakopmund is the capital of the Skeleton Coast tourism area and has plenty to keep visitors happy. The quirky mix of German and Namibian influences, colonial-era buildings and the cool sea breeze make it very popular.

Overnight: Swakopmund Sands Hotel [View iBrochure](#)

Swakopmund Sands Hotel is a short walk from the very popular Jetty and TUG restaurants as well as other tourist attractions. Each room is equipped with a flat screen TV, safe, heating, fridge, as well as tea and coffee facilities for your convenience. A laundry service is available for same day delivery.

Each bathroom has a hairdryer and shaving facilities and all international power points can be used. In the morning you will be able to enjoy a sumptuous buffet breakfast in a very relaxing and tranquil dining area.



Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Sossusvlei Excursion in our own vehicle

Excluded

- Dinner

Day 8: Departure

ITINERARY

After a relaxing final breakfast together we depart for Windhoek. It is a 4 to 5 hour drive eastwards to the capital. We drive through the Namib Desert for the last time. It is the oldest desert *and* boasts some of the highest sand dunes in the world.

**Please note: we can easily arrange a day or two extra for you in Swakopmund/Walvis Bay for the many activities that can be enjoyed here. Please enquire before the safari departs.*

On our last drive back to Windhoek, keep an eye out for some wildlife. We may see Ostrich, Oryx, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Sociable Weavers or even a Greater Kudu.

In Windhoek we will either take you to your hotel (if you are planning a longer stay in the capital), or to Hosea Kutako International Airport for your homeward flight, or for your connecting flight if you decide to combine this safari with an extension to Victoria Falls, Botswana, Zambia or South Africa. We can also extend this safari northwards to Damaraland with its desert adapted elephants, and also to world renowned Etosha National Park. We will gladly assist with accommodation in Windhoek should you need to stay over.

Included

- Breakfast
 - Airport/Hotel Drop Off by your guide
-